SEPTEMBER 1995

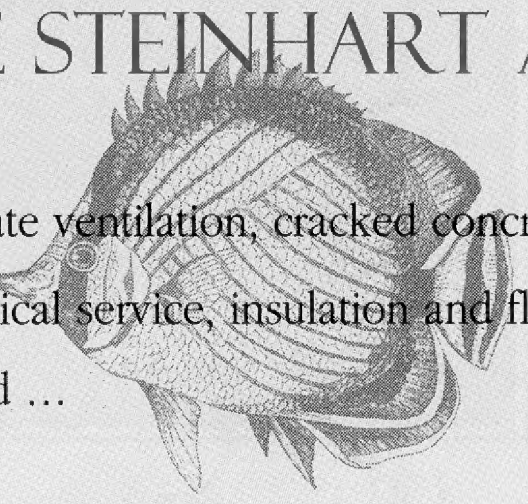
The California Academy of Sciences
in Golden Gate Park

ACADEMY

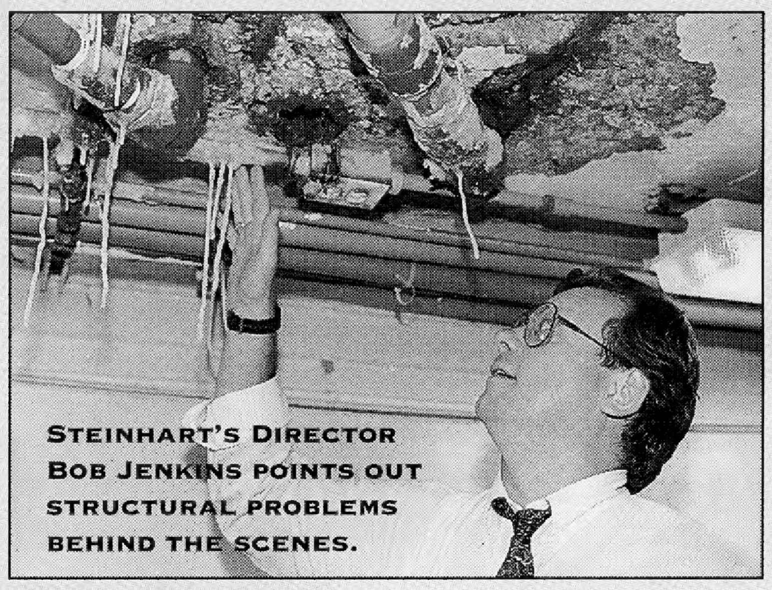
Newsletter

DEDICATED TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, INSPIRING RESPECT FOR THE NATURAL WORLD

SAVE STEINHART AQUARIUM



Leaking roofs, rusting pipes, inadequate ventilation, cracked concrete walls, settling floors, outdated electrical service, insulation and floors containing asbestos, paint containing lead ...



STEINHART'S DIRECTOR BOB JENKINS POINTS OUT STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS BEHIND THE SCENES.

Dong Lin

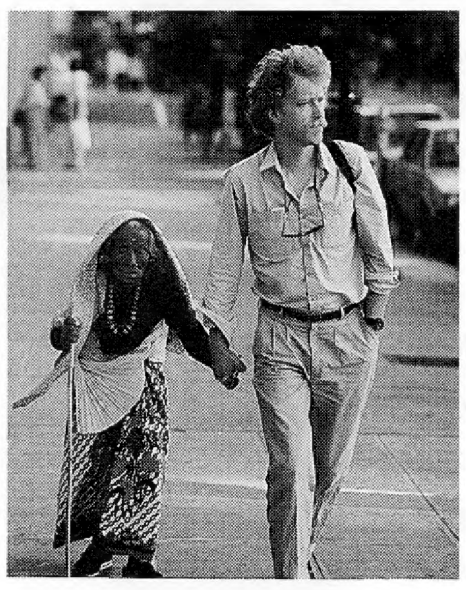
These are some of the serious structural problems challenging the operation of the Steinhart Aquarium. Years of saltwater corrosion have resulted in spiraling deterioration and damage. Without immediate repair the aquarium will continue to decline — eventually becoming too unsafe to operate and too expensive to renovate. Additionally, a major earthquake could destroy every fish and animal loved so much by all their visitors.

Due to the substantial deterioration of the life-safety structures of the aquarium — and the potentially dangerous conditions in the event of another earthquake — the S.F. Board of Supervisors has unanimously agreed that a $29 million general obligation bond should be placed on the November ballot. The bond will enable voters to approve the funds necessary to: provide seismic upgrades; remove asbestos, lead paint and other toxins; replace the life support system; and improve disabled access to Steinhart. The Academy's board of trustees also has committed to making improvements to the design and displays that will allow new technologies to be used without compromising the essence of the aquarium.

During the fall, a cadre of volunteers and staff will explain to San Francisco citizens the importance of our aquarium to the education and enjoyment of visitors, to the preservation of endangered species and to the scientific mission of the Academy. If you would like to help us in our efforts in any way — be it contributions of time or energy, or displaying a poster in your home or office — please call (415) 351-1995, and "Save Steinhart Aquarium."

SEPTEMBER MEMBERS MEETING

AAMA



FROM NEPAL TO AMERICA

With author Broughton Coburn

Sept. 13, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Journey with Aama, a Nepali woman, from her village in the foothills of the Himalayas on a 12,000-mile odyssey to the United States. Author Broughton Coburn's slide-illustrated presentation begins in Aama's village in Nepal, where we are immersed in the cosmology, philosophy, hopes and humor of a woman who had virtually no exposure to Western culture. In 1988 she turned 84, a watershed year sanctified by a long-life ritual that relieves elders from further worldly obligations — an auspicious time to go on a pilgrimage. That's when she came to America with Coburn and his wife to search for the soul of our country.

Aama visits cities, advises farmers, kisses a killer whale, bathes ritually in the ocean, rejoices at Disneyland, gambles in Las Vegas, meets with Native Americans, finds kin among the Hutterites and prays at Old Faithful. Aama's reactions to the United States are amusing, surprising and sometimes disconcerting, yet we unexpectedly find that her emotions and sensibilities are not unlike our own. Aama is a universal spirit, and she has found the sacredness that surrounds us and breathes within us.

Coburn lived and worked in Nepal for more than 15 years and formed a special bond with Aama, who was his landlady for two of those years. He is the author of two nonfiction books, *Aama in America: A Pilgrimage of the Heart* and *Nepali Aama: Life Lessons of a Himalayan Woman*. A book-signing will follow the lecture in the Academy Bookstore.

Please present your membership card at the Academy's entrance and again at the auditorium. This members meeting is provided as a benefit of membership and thus is only open to members of the Academy.

NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCED

Susan Middleton

The Academy is delighted to welcome Pamela Cook to her position as the Academy's director of development. Cook, who began work in July, said she is "excited about returning to the Bay Area and looking forward to working with the staff, board of trustees and volunteers on both existing fund-raising programs and developing new strategies to enhance them."

Dr. Evelyn E. Handler, the Academy's executive director, expressed her enthusiasm for Cook's appointment. "Pamela's experience and knowledge of the Bay Area philanthropic community makes her uniquely qualified for the position," Handler said.

An experienced manager and a proven leader, Cook has a strong fund-raising background and a demonstrated commitment to education. For the past three years, she has been the associate dean of development for arts and sciences at the University of Virginia. Prior to this position, she served as director of individual giving at Stanford University's engineering school and as campaign director for the United Way of Santa Clara County.

Cook is joined by her husband, Paul Gietzel, vice president of technical services at Utopia Information Systems in San Francisco, and their 5-year-old son, Kevin.

SPEC... ...RES

Ancestral Passions: The Leakey Family

Michael McRae

The Leakey family is the premier dynasty in the search for human origins. Richard, Louis and Mary Leakey are the subject of a new biography, *Ancestral Passions: The Leaky Family and the Quest for Humankind's Beginnings,* by Virginia Morell. Morell began research for this book in 1984 when Richard Leakey invited her to join him on his West Turkana exhibition (where Turkana Boy, a 1.6-million-year-old *Homo erectus,* was found). She also traveled with Mary Leakey to Olduvai and Laetoli.

Morell is a noted science writer whose work has appeared in *Science* and *Discover.* A special reception will precede the lecture at 6 p.m. with wine and hors d'oeuvres in African Hall. A book-signing will follow the lecture. This event is co-sponsored by the Leakey Foundation.

Thu., Sept. 14 — 7:30 p.m.
Lecture only: $6 members/$10 nonmembers
Reception only 6 p.m.: $30 members/$35 nonmembers

How Evolution W... The Rube Goldbe...

Nature is often portray... tem of perfectly design... record debunks this vi... spurts at excruciatingl... achieve mechanical pe... gist Dr. Robert Bakker... cesses come up with I... (Goldberg's cartoons c... complicated machiner...

An iconoclastic an... the controversial auth... and has written for *Sc... can, Natural History* ... will follow the lecture...

Tues., Sept. 19 — 7:30 p...
$6 members/$10 nonme...

Special lectures are presented in the auditorium. Use order form for tickets. For more info...

NEW DISPLAYS IN WATTIS GALLERY

"Weapons of Wa" and "California Baskets"

Enjoy new pieces on display in Wattis Gallery from our anthropology collection. See nine handmade fighting swords from the Wa people, one of many tribal groups whose homelands border China and Myanmar (formerly Burma). These swords were handed down for generations among Wa leaders. Also on display are nearly 30 California Native American baskets, representing more than 20 tribes from every part of the state, along with examples of basket-making materials and explanations of basketry techniques.

TRADITIONAL ARTS

Maritime Songs

After 24 years in the British Royal Navy, ex-submariner Tom Lewis draws on his nautical experience to present traditional work songs and maritime lore from the age of the sailing ships. Lewis' rich tenor voice is enhanced by the button accordion and the ukulele.

Sat., Sept. 16 — 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Auditorium)

Dance From the Caucasus

The Kafkaz Ensemble performs dances from Georgia, Circassia and Azerbaijan, including rarely seen dances from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and other remote regions of the central Asian steppes.

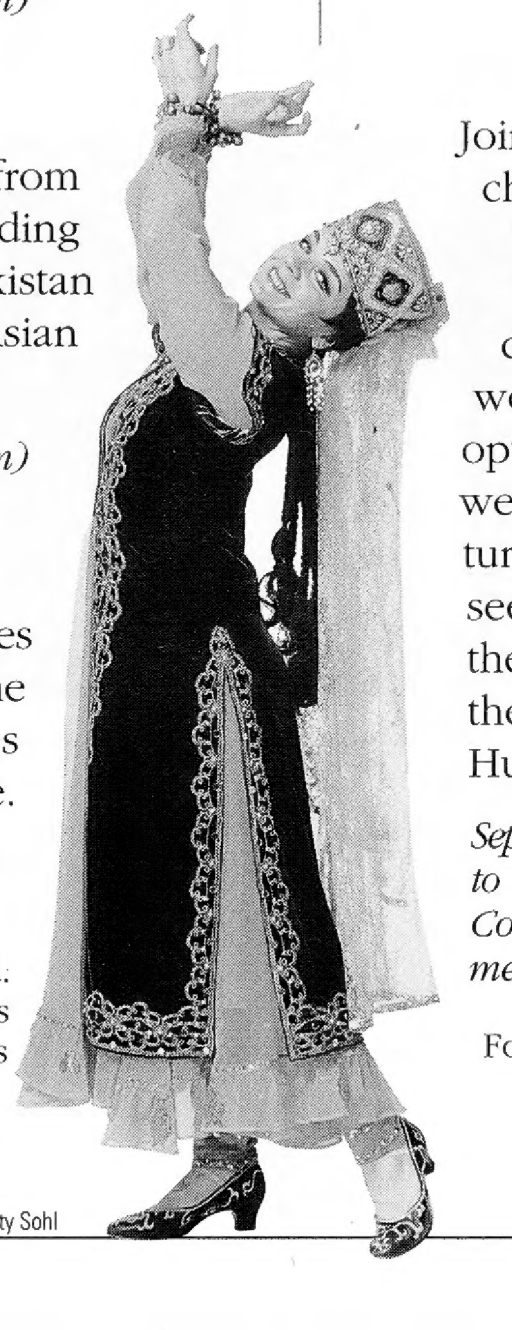
Sat., Sept. 23 — 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Auditorium)

Polish Folk Tales

A dragon in the castle, elves in the salt mines and a devil on the dance floor — all come alive in Susan Marie Frontczak's stories from her Polish and Czech family heritage.

Sat., Sept. 30 — 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Auditorium)

Explore cultural traditions from around the world. Free after general admission. The traditional arts program is funded by the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation. Call 750-7164, for more information.


©1994 Marty Sohl

ADULT AND FAMILY EDUCATION

Eastern Sierra Autumn: Mono Lake and More

Explore the dramatic Mono Basin at one of the most beautiful times of the year. The aspen groves are bright orange and rabbitbrush blooms amidst the sagebrush while thousands of birds flock about the lake. Through a number of short walks, instructor David Wimpfheimer will teach you about the natural and human history of the area. Optional accommodations available at the Best Western Lake View Lodge.

Sept. 29–Oct. 1
Cost: $185 members/$200 nonmembers (double); $250 members/$265 nonmembers (single); $100 members/$115 nonmembers (no accommodations)

Revisiting the Hubble Telescope

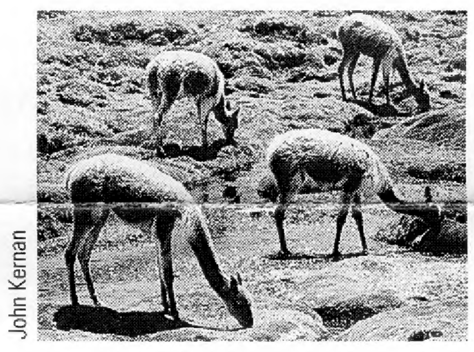
Join us for a three-week armchair tour of the Hubble Space Telescope. With instructor Darryl Stanford we'll see in detail how the Hubble works, analyze the original optical problems and how they were solved. We'll inspect pictures taken with the Hubble, see how astronomers make their observations and discern the types of objects the Hubble can and cannot view.

Sept. 11–25 (3 Mon.) — 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Cost: $45 members/$55 nonmembers

For more information, call adult and family education at 750-7100.

ACADEMY T...

In the Wake of I...


John Kernan

On this exciting ... you'll observe the... With Luis Baptist... take you to the ... fortress-village ... Atacama (known... mummies), Lauca National Park, Lake Chu... world's largest adobe city). You'll board sm... Nazca Plains and may opt for an extension t...

Mar. 19–Apr. 4; Cost $7,590–$9,590 per person ... tional airfare only; $6,670–$8,670 per person (...

Whale Lagoons and Yucatán Trips Still...

There are still spaces left on two of our exc... Maya — a land tour with Richard Hansen ... age to the Whale Lagoons — a cruise aboa... Jan. 11–20.

For more information and detailed i... Academy tours, please call the ...

"My Pooled Income Fund gift is an ideal way to help the Academy and receive a nice quarterly income check at the same time!"

Ellen Kipp, Academy member since 1945 (at least!)

Ellen Kipp... many frie... children. Seve... Academy Poo... added to the f...

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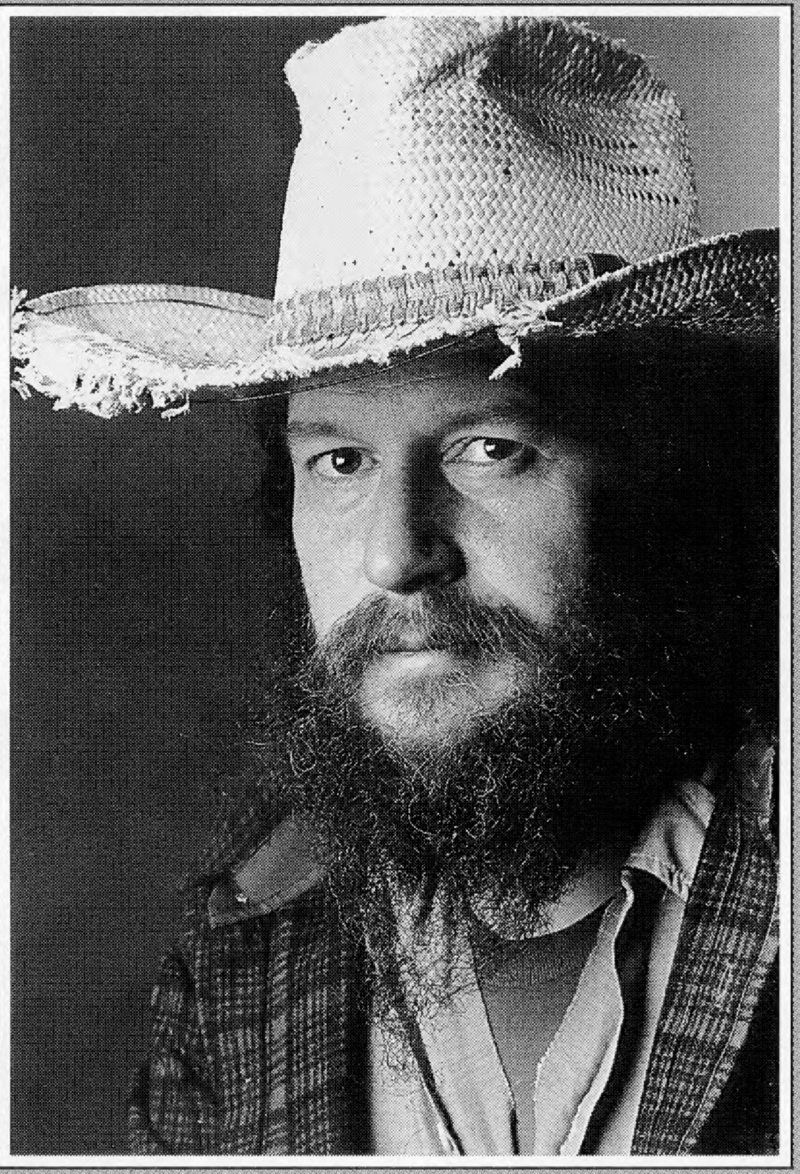

RAVEL

Darwin: Patagonia to Peru

cruise aboard the *M.S. Alla Tarasova*
incredible diversity of Chile and Peru.
as your guide, shore excursions will
Valley of the Moon, the 12th century
f Pukará of Lasana, San Pedro de
for its collection of well-preserved
ngará and Chan Chan (home of the
ll aircraft for a flight over the famous
rip to the fabled city of Machu Picchu.

(double occupancy), including interna-
louble occupancy), no airfare

Available

ting excursions: Yucatán, Land of the
nd Chuck Cecil, Jan. 6–20; and Voy-
rd the *M.V. Sea Bird* with Jim Kelley,

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ravel office at 750-7348.

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and reliable quarterly income
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Academy.
, each participant in the Acad-
come Fund will receive a quar-
check. Why not join them in
you are at least 55 years of age
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y Pooled Income Fund, please
or use the response form on
is newsletter.

Remembering Mrs. Marriner (Sallie) Eccles, Academy Benefactor

1908 – 1995

The Academy recently lost a dear friend with the passing of Mrs. Marriner (Sallie) Eccles. Raised in Long Island, N.Y., she spent most of her life in Salt Lake City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, generously sharing her boundless energy, invaluable advice, financial generosity and love for life on Earth. She provided numerous gifts and grants to the Academy and other Bay Area institutions to ensure that the arts and sciences would be made available to everyone.

Dong Lin

MRS. ECCLES SPEAKS WITH MAYOR FRANK JORDAN AT THIS YEAR'S ACADEMY BALL.

Eccles, who began supporting the Academy in 1977, directed much of her philanthropic effort toward the aquarium, remarking once that "the aquarium makes me believe in God." She conceived of and supported evening hours on "Free Wednesdays" at the Academy to allow people who work during the day a chance to enjoy the museum. Ranking high among Eccles' lifetime of accolades was having one of Steinhart's black-footed penguins named "Sallie" after her. The lives of those who knew her, and all the animals and visitors to the Museum that did not, are richer because of her.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

Knock, Knock...

Feature Sky Show: Who's out there? Take a look at the search for extraterrestrial life, from NASA's defunct Project SETI (now revived and renamed Project Phoenix) and Berkeley's Project Serendip to earlier attempts to listen for signs of alien civilizations. Did you know that radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi once listened for messages from Mars or that Nikola Tesla believed that he had been contacted by another world? Despite its public appeal, why don't many scientists take the subject of UFOs seriously? Find out where we stand in the search for aliens. The show opens Sept. 15 and is shown daily at 2 p.m. and at 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays (closes Jan. 7.).

Sky Shows Delight Visitors

Current Sky Shows: As of June 30, 86,571 visitors have seen a planetarium sky show this year.

The planetarium will be CLOSED for sky show changes Sept. 11–14 and will reopen with "Knock, Knock..." on Sept. 15. The additional weekday sky shows that were added for summer will end after Labor Day at which point there will only be a 2 p.m. show Monday through Friday.

September Schedule
The planetarium is closed Sept. 11–14

Sky Show/*Description*	Wkday	Wkend
Knock, Knock... *search for extraterrestrial life* (opens Sept. 15)	2 p.m.	2 & 4 p.m.
Encounter With a Giant *the solar system's largest planets*		
times through Sept. 10	2 p.m.	2 & 4 p.m.
times starting Sept. 15	—	1 & 3 p.m.
Realm of the Galaxies *the secrets they hold* (closes Sept. 10)	—	1 & 3 p.m.
Where in Space is Carmen Sandiego?® *a family show*	—	11 a.m.
StarTalk *tour of the night sky*	—	noon

For more information, please call 750-7141.

Stellar Alchemy: The Origin of Chemical Elements

B. Dean Lecture: Once nuclear reactions were produced in the laboratory, their role in stellar energy generation became apparent. However, it has only been within the last 10 years that astronomical observations have provided confirmation of the theoretical ideas developed in the 1930s and 1950s.

Dr. Eric Norman, senior scientist at the nuclear science division of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, studies the center of stars from a mile underground. Norman will describe the sequences of nuclear reactions believed to be responsible for power generation within stars. The evolution and final fates of stars will be discussed, along with the key astronomical observations that support these models.

Mt. Wilson Observatory

Tue., Sept. 26 — 7:30 p.m.
Tickets, $3 each

The Fall '95 series will continue with Dr. Ed Smith, Jet Propulsion Laboratories, Oct. 31; Dr. Bernard Sadoulet, U.C. Berkeley Center for Particle Physics, Nov. 21; and Dr. Leslie Young, NASA-Ames, Dec. 12.

For advance tickets, use order form. Tickets may be available at the door on a standby basis. Please call 750-7141, for more information.

California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

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ORDER FORM

SPECIAL LECTURES

	Qty/Mem.	Qty/Nonmem.	Total
Ancestral Passions: The Leakey Family / Sept. 14 (Lecture only)	____ x $6	____ x $10	= ____
(Reception only)	____ x $30	____ x $35	= ____
How Evolution Works: The Rube Goldberg Syndrome / Sept. 19	____ x $6	____ x $10	= ____
		TOTAL $	____

PLANETARIUM'S B. DEAN LECTURE SERIES

	Quantity	Total
Stellar Alchemy: The Origin of Chemical Elements / Sept. 26	____ x $3	= ____
Dr. Ed Smith / Oct. 31	____ x $3	= ____
Dr. Bernard Sadoulet / Nov. 21	____ x $3	= ____
Dr. Leslie Young / Dec. 12	____ x $3	= ____
	TOTAL $	____

POOLED INCOME FUND

○ Please send me information about the Academy's Pooled Income Fund.

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED $ ____

PAYMENT METHOD

(Check one) ○ Check ○ VISA ○ MasterCard ○ American Express

Credit card charges gladly accepted over $10.

Card# ____ Exp. Date ____

Signature ____ Daytime Phone ____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: C.A.S. and mail with this coupon form to:
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California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118

Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for each series to which you subscribe. No refunds/exchanges.

California Academy of Sciences®

The Academy includes the Natural History Museum, Steinhart Aquarium and Morrison Planetarium. Open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 4–Labor Day we're open 9 a.m to 6 p.m.

VISITOR SERVICES

Academy Information: 415-750-7145
Academy Store: 750-7410
Admissions: 750-7159
Aquarium: 750-7247
Biodiversity Center: 750-7361
Development Office: 750-7216
Docent Tours: 750-7155
Education Office: 750-7100
Group Information: 750-7159
Job Hotline: 750-7333
Laserium: 750-7138
Lectures: 750-7128
Library: 750-7102
Membership Office: 750-7111
Planetarium: 750-7141
Planned Giving: 750-7216
Security: 750-7000
Switchboard: 221-5100
Travel: 750-7348
Volunteer Services: 750-7154
Weekend Information: 750-7375

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THE ACADEMY STORE

Just in time for "back to school," the Academy's own signature totebag featuring graphic animals inspired by ancient cave paintings. This generous 14-by-19 inch totebag is printed on both sides and is machine washable, for only $12.95.

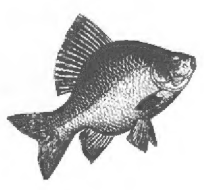
Dong Lin

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PERMANENT EXHIBITS Penguin Environment: A breeding colony of 18 black footed penguins waddles and swims in this crowd pleasing display in the aquarium. (See daily feeding times.)				**DOLPHIN FEEDINGS** are at 10:30 a.m., and 12:30, 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. every day	1 **HIGHLIGHT TOURS** Free one-hour highlight tours are offered daily.	2 **MEMBERS** Please bring your membership card when you visit the Academy
3 **PENGUIN FEEDINGS** are at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. every day	4 Holiday sky show schedule in effect for Labor Day; "Buccellati: Artistry in Gemstones & Gold" exhibit closes	5 Return to non-summer hours; the Academy's open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.	6 **Free Day** First Wednesday of each month	7	8	9
10 "Realm of the Galaxies" sky show closes	11 Planetarium closed through the 14th for sky show change	12	13 Aama: From Nepal to America, 2 & 7:30 p.m. (Members Meeting)	14 Ancestral Passions: The Leakey Family, 7:30 p.m. (Special Lectures)	15 Planetarium reopens with "Knock, Knock..." feature sky show	16 Maritime Songs, 1 p.m. (Traditional Arts)
17 **PLANETARIUM SKY SHOWS** on weekends at 11 a.m., and at noon, 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m.	18 **PLANETARIUM SKY SHOWS** on weekdays at 2 p.m.	19 How Evolution Works: The Rube Goldberg Syndrome, 7:30 p.m. (Special Lectures)	20	21 **SCIENCE IN ACTION** General programs Mon.–Fri. at 11:30 a.m. Children's programs Sat. at 12:30 & 3 p.m.; this month's topic is a celebration of *Everglades.*	22 **SPECIAL EXHIBITS** "Dancing to the Fossil Record," through Jan. 8	23 Dance From the Caucasus, 1 p.m. (Traditional Arts)
24	25	26 Stellar Alchemy: The Origin of Chemical Elements, 7:30 p.m. (B. Dean Lecture)	27 **LASERIUM SHOWS** Thursday–Sunday, evenings, call 750-7138	28	29	30 Polish Folk Tales, 1 p.m. (Traditional Arts)

OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 31 - Dr. Ed Smith (B. Dean Lecture)



UPCOMING MEMBERS MEETINGS

Oct. 11 - Flora & Fauna of China, with Nancy Pickford
Nov. 15 - Bears, with Matt Reid, director, The Great Bear Foundation
Dec. 13 - Life in the Oceans, with Norbert Wu